IN THE UNITED STATES RECEIVING OFFICE
AS INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

International
Application No.:   PCT/US03/09883

International
Filing Date: 31 March 2003

Applicant: MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD., et al.

Title: USER CONFIGURABLE ELECTRONIC PROGRAM GUIDE
            DRAWING UPON DISPARATE CONTENT SOURCES

Attorney Docket: 9432-000182/POA

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Attn: Authorized Officer Andrew FAILE

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN OPINION
AND AMENDMENT UNDER ARTICLE 34

Sir:

In response to the Written Opinion mailed 30 January 2004 please amend the above identified PCT application pursuant to Article 34, as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1 and 19 as shown below where bracketed information has been removed and underlined information has been added.

1.   (Amended)   A handheld device employing disparate sources to provide an electronic programming guide, comprising:

an input adapted to receive a program identification extracted from a broadcast signal, wherein the program identification is adapted to identify available media content;

a synchronization engine adapted to create a link multilevel links associating the program identification with multiple levels of additional information relating to the available media content, wherein at least one level of the additional

information is acquired from a disparate content source, and the multilevel links are synchronized to successively lead to progressively more detailed levels of the additional information; and

a user interface adapted to communicate the multiple levels of additional information in association with the program identification to a consumer based on the ~~link~~ multilevel links.

19.   (Amended) A method of operation for a handheld device employing disparate sources to provide an electronic programming guide, comprising:

receiving a program identification extracted from a broadcast signal, wherein the program identification is adapted to identify available media content;

creating ~~a link~~ multilevel links associating the program identification with multiple levels of additional information relating to the available media content, wherein at least one level of the additional information is acquired from a disparate content source, and the multilevel links are synchronized to successively lead to progressively more detailed levels of the additional information; and

communicating the multiple levels of additional information in association with the program identification to a consumer based on the ~~link~~ multilevel links.

REMARKS

The amendments to the claims are fully supported in the Detailed Description of the originally filed application at paragraphs [0014]-[0017] and Figures 2-4. Applicant's claimed invention is directed toward synchronizing EPG information obtained from the broadcast signal with EPG information obtained from a disparate content source, such as the Internet. As shown in Figures 2-4, the program identifier extracted from the EPG information contained in the broadcast signal provides a first level of detail that is used to link to the related broadcast EPG program information at a second level of detail. Then, a hyperlink is couched in the display of the broadcast EPG information that leads to an even more detailed EPG available over the Internet (or some other disparate content source) at a third level of detail. This functionality is extendable, such that the multiple levels of disparate EPG information may result in further links leading to further levels of detail, and disparate EPG information from multiple disparate sources can be synchronized in a similar manner. Conversely, Allport merely teaches, in one embodiment, viewing of HTML data received in the broadcast signal on a remote viewer (column 7, lines 59-67), and, in another embodiment, bookmarking urls displayed in internet-enabled TV advertisements. Accordingly, Allport does not teach, based on a program ID extracted from a broadcast signal, creating synchronized multilevel-links to multiple levels of progressively more detailed information obtained from the broadcast signal and a disparate content source. These differences are significant because Allport's teachings do not enable synchronous supplementation of a broadcast EPG with disparate EPG contents at multiple levels of detail that a user can intuitively navigate in a progressively more detailed fashion.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1 – 28 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 19 have been amended. The remaining claims remain unchanged. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Applicant believes that the amended claims do not go beyond the disclosure of the application as filed. In order to facilitate entry of this amendment, replacement pages 10 through 13 of the International Application are included.

Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 30, 2004   By:

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Int'l. Appln. No. PCT/US03/09883
Amendment Under Article 34

Page 4
Atty. Docket No. 9432-182/POA

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A handheld device employing disparate sources to provide an electronic programming guide, comprising:

5   an input adapted to receive a program identification extracted from a broadcast signal, wherein the program identification is adapted to identify available media content;

a synchronization engine adapted to create multilevel links associating the program identification with multiple levels of additional information 10 relating to the available media content, wherein at least one level of the additional information is acquired from a disparate content source, and the multilevel links are synchronized to successively lead to progressively more detailed levels of the additional information; and

a user interface adapted to communicate the multiple levels of 15 additional information in association with the program identification to a consumer based on the multilevel links.

2.   The device of claim 1, comprising a data request module adapted to identify the additional information at a remote location on a communications network.

20   3.   The device of claim 1, comprising a data request module adapted to request the additional information from a remote location over a communications network based on the program identification.

4.   The device of claim 1, comprising a portal input adapted to receive the additional information from a remote location over a communications network.

25   5.   The device of claim 1, comprising a web browser adapted to store the additional information in a memory of the handheld device.

6.   The device of claim 1, wherein said user interface is adapted to communicate the program identification to the consumer.

7.   The device of claim 6, wherein said user interface is adapted to 30 detect a selection of the program identification by the consumer.

8.   The device of claim 7, wherein said synchronization engine is adapted, upon detecting the selection, to retrieve the additional information from a

location in memory of the handheld device via a link between the program identification and the location.

9.   The device of claim 7, wherein said synchronization engine is adapted, upon detecting the selection, to retrieve the additional information from a remote location over a communications system via a link between the program identification and the remote location.

10.   The device of claim 7, comprising:

retrieving the additional information from a location via a link between the program identification and the location, wherein said retrieving occurs in response to said detecting; and

communicating the additional information to the consumer in response to said detecting.

11.   The device of claim 1, wherein said synchronization engine is adapted to create an electronic program guide data structure and source data structure.

12.   The device of claim 11, wherein said synchronization engine is adapted to build the electronic program guide data structure by scanning available source devices in the source data structure.

13.   The device of claim 12, wherein said synchronization engine is a adapted to parse content of the source devices and construct the electronic program guide data structure based on the content.

14.   The device of claim 13, wherein said synchronization engine is adapted to locate a program list view providing a first level of programming guide information including channels and programs of the electronic program guide data structure.

15.   The device of claim 14, scans available sources to determine if multiple sources exist, to select a source with a most recent date and time stamp, and to retrieve content from a selected source.

16.   The device of claim 15, wherein said synchronization engine is adapted to construct an electronic program guide view on a display of the device, and to provide a hyperlink on the display to a second level of electronic program guide information.

17.   The device of claim 16, wherein said synchronization engine is adapted to create a subsequent hyperlink directing the user to a third level of electronic program guide information.

18.   The device of claim 16, wherein said synchronization engine is adapted to download electronic program guide contents to the device prior to a user request for electronic program guide contents.

19.   A method of operation for a handheld device employing disparate sources to provide an electronic programming guide, comprising:

receiving a program identification extracted from a broadcast signal, wherein the program identification is adapted to identify available media content;

creating multilevel links associating the program identification with multiple levels of additional information relating to the available media content, wherein at least one level of the additional information is acquired from a disparate content source, and the multilevel links are synchronized to successively lead to progressively more detailed levels of the additional information; and

communicating the multiple levels of additional information in association with the program identification to a consumer based on the multilevel links.

20.   The method of claim 19, comprising identifying the additional information at a remote location on a communications network.

21.   The method of claim 19, comprising requesting the additional information from a remote location over a communications network based on the program identification.

22.   The method of claim 19, comprising receiving the additional information from a remote location over a communications network.

23.   The method of claim 19, comprising storing the additional information in a memory of the handheld device.

24.   The method of claim 11, comprising communicating the program identification to the consumer.

25.   The method of claim 24, comprising detecting a selection of the program identification by the consumer.

26.   The method of claim 25, comprising retrieving the additional information from a location in memory of the handheld device via a link between the program identification and the location, wherein said retrieving occurs in response to said detecting.

5   27.   The method of claim 25, comprising retrieving the additional information from a remote location over a communications system via a link between the program identification and the remote location, wherein said retrieving occurs in response to said detecting.

28.   The method of claim 25, comprising:

10   retrieving the additional information from a location via a link between the program identification and the location, wherein said retrieving occurs in response to said detecting; and

communicating the additional information to the consumer in response to said detecting.